

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended). A method of illuminating a backlit display, said method comprising the step of spatially varying the luminance of a light source illuminating a plurality of displayed pixels in response to a plurality of intensity pixel values dependent on the content of an image to be displayed on said display of said pixels and varying the transmittance of a light valve of said display in a non-binary manner, wherein said light source is spatially displaced at a location at least partially directly beneath said plurality of pixels, wherein different regions of said light source spatially displaced at said location simultaneously provide have different non-zero luminance.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended). The method of claim 2 1 wherein said a relationship of said pixel values luminance of said pixel and said luminance of said light source is a nonlinear relationship.

4. (Currently Amended). The method of claim 2 1 further comprising wherein the step of determining a luminance of a pixel from an intensity value comprises the step of filtering an intensity pixel value for a plurality of pixels.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended). The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of sampling said a filtered intensity value for a-at-a spatial coordinate corresponding to location of said light source.

7. (Currently Amended). The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of rescaling a sample of said filtered intensity value to reflect a nonlinear relationship between said luminance intensity of said light source and said intensity of said displayed pixel.

8. (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1 ~~2 wherein the step of varying a luminance of said light source based on according to a relationship of said luminance of said pixel values and said luminance of said light source comprises the steps of further comprising:~~

- (a) operating said light source at substantially a maximum luminance if a luminance of at least one displayed pixel exceeds a threshold luminance; and
- (b) otherwise, attenuating said luminance of said light source according to a relationship of said luminance of said light source and a luminance of a plurality of pixels.

9. (Currently Amended). The method of claim 8 wherein the step of attenuating a luminance of a light source according to a relationship of said luminance of said light source and a luminance of a plurality of pixels comprises the step of attenuating said luminance of said light source ~~according to a relationship based upon~~ of said luminance of said light source and a mean luminance of said plurality of pixels.

10-12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1 wherein the step of varying a luminance of a light source ~~illuminating a displayed pixel~~ comprises the step of varying a luminance of a plurality of light sources illuminating a plurality of displayed pixels substantially comprising a frame in a sequence of video frames.

14. (Original). The method of claim 13 wherein the step of varying a luminance of a plurality of light sources illuminating a plurality of pixels substantially comprising a frame in a sequence of video frames comprises the step of varying said luminance of said light sources for less than all frames of said sequence.

15-18. (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended). A backlit display comprising:

- (a) a plurality of light source elements;
- (b) a light valve arranged for non-binary locally modulated transmittance of light from said light source elements, said non-binary locally modulated transmittance being responsive to a data pixel value of an image pixel; and
- (c) a light source controller to spatially modulate a luminance output of a light source element according to a relationship of said luminance output and said data pixel value dependent on the content of an image to be displayed on said display of said image pixel, wherein said light source is spatially displaced at a location at least partially beneath said plurality of pixels, wherein different regions of said light source spatially displaced at said location simultaneously provide have different non-zero luminance.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended). A backlight for a display comprising a plurality of light sources, at least one light source being controllable to output light at a luminance level independent of a luminance level of light output by another of said light sources, said luminance levels based on pixel values dependent on the content of an image to be displayed on said display, and a light valve varying the transmittance of light from said display in a non-binary manner, wherein different regions of said light source spatially displaced at said location simultaneously provide have different non-zero luminance.

22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim + 21wherein said light source includes a plurality of light emitting diodes.

24. (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim 23 21 wherein each of said light emitting diodes is associated with a different said pixel.

25. (Canceled).

26 (New). The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of attenuating said luminance of said light sources for a subset of frames of said sequence, said subset including less than all said frames of said sequence.

27 (New). The method of claim 1 wherein said spatially varying the luminance is based upon low pass filtered pixel values.

28 (New). The method of claim 19 wherein said spatially modulated luminance output is based upon low pass filtered pixel values.

29 (New). The method of claim 21 wherein said luminance level is based upon low pass filtered pixel values.

30 (New). The method of claim 1 further comprising variably reducing luminance of a portion of said light source based upon a dark local spatial area of said pixel data.

31 (New). The method of claim 19 further comprising variably reducing luminance of a portion of said light source elements based upon a dark local spatial area of said pixel data.

32 (New). The method of claim 21 further comprising variably reducing luminance of a portion of said light sources based upon a dark local spatial area of said pixel data.

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33 (New). The method of claim 1 further comprising non-linear modification of said pixel values in a manner that simulates a CRT display.

34 (New). The method of claim 19 further comprising non-linear modification of a plurality of said pixel values in a manner that simulates a CRT display.

35 (New). The method of claim 21 further comprising non-linear modification of said pixel values in a manner that simulates a CRT display.